



Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Water Quality

December 27, 2004

Number 04-51

TMDL Policy and Guidance – Comment deadline, hearing date extended -

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has extended the comment period for the *Water Quality Control Policy for Addressing California's Impaired Waters: Regulatory Structure and Options* ("TMDL Policy") and the accompanying Impaired Waters Guidance (see *NewsFlash* 04-47). The new comment deadline is January 24, 2005. The hearing date has been changed to February 2, 2005 rather than Jan. 4. Posted: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html> Additionally, a "Response to Comments on the December 10, 2003 Impaired Waters Guidance and Policy" is now available upon request. For a copy, please contact Rik Rasmussen at (916) 341-5549 or via e-mail at rrasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov.

Industrial Stormwater– SWRCB revises permit – The current *Industrial Activities Storm Water General Permit* (Water Quality Order 97-03-DWQ) was adopted in 1997. The SWRCB held hearings on a revision to this permit in June 2003. The revised draft has now been posted. The SWRCB has scheduled hearings on January 31 (Rancho Cucamonga) and February 3, 2005 (Sacto.). Comments are due Feb. 3. The Board's goal is final adoption by June 2005.

One of the regulated stormwater categories covered by the permit is "Transportation Facilities" which includes vehicle maintenance shops, equipment cleaning operations, etc. However, these types of facilities within the Department are covered by the Statewide Caltrans Permit and not by this Industrial General Permit. Some Districts do require that contractor offsite construction support facilities such as batch plants seek coverage under the Industrial Permit.

This draft requires more monitoring for indicator parameters and also requires corrective actions when discharge concentrations exceed "benchmark" values in U.S. EPA's multi-sector permit. The benchmarks are the pollutant concentrations that EPA uses as an indicator that the discharger has not effectively implemented a SWPPP providing "BAT/BCT" pollutant control (see *NewsFlash* 4-17 for BCT/BAT discussion). A permit violation occurs if the permittee fails to implement corrective actions plus additional sampling and analysis as a result of an exceedance of a benchmark value during a qualifying storm event. The benchmark value for total suspended solids is 100 mg/l (milligrams per liter). A more critical benchmark may be the 1 mg/l value for iron, which is present naturally in soils at around 3 – 4%. Runoff containing background soil in a concentration of 100 mg/l will likely exceed the benchmark for iron. A similar issue pertains to aluminum which occurs in soils at about 7%. http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/final_draft_indus.pdf

State Implementation Policy - Hearing scheduled – The public hearing for the proposed revisions to the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (commonly known as the *State Implementation Policy* or SIP) will be held Feb. 2 in Sacto. The policy does not directly affect stormwater dischargers and the changes are relatively minor (see *NewsFlash* 04-43). Comments are due Jan 5. Posted at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/iswp/index.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>